AUTODOC CLUB

How to change rear brake pads on **BMW 3 Coupe (E46)** – replacement guide

SIMILAR VIDEO TUTORIAL



This video shows the replacement procedure of a similar car part on another vehicle

Important!

This replacement procedure can be used for:
BMW 3 Coupe (E46) M3, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 330xi 3.0, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 330Cd 3.0, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 330Ci 3.0

The steps may slightly vary depending on the car design.

This tutorial was created based on the replacement procedure for a similar car part on: BMW X5 (E53) 3.0 i

REPLACEMENT: BRAKE PADS – BMW 3 COUPE (E46). LIST OF THE TOOLS YOU'LL NEED:



- Wire brush
- WD-40 spray
- Brake cleaner
- Anti-squeal paste
- Copper grease
- HEX bit no.H7.
- Wheel impact socket #19
- Ratchet wrench
- Torque wrench
- Brake caliper wind back tool
- Crow bar
- Wheel chock

Buy tools

Replacement: brake pads – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). Tip from AUTODOC:

- Perform the replacement of brake pads in complete set for each axis. This provides effective braking.
- The replacement procedure is identical for all brake pads on the same axle.
- Please note: all work on the car – BMW 3 Coupe (E46) – should be done with the engine switched off.

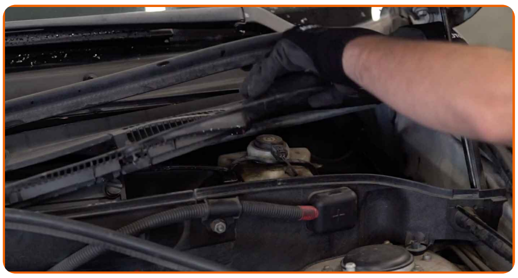
CARRY OUT REPLACEMENT IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

1 Open the bonnet.

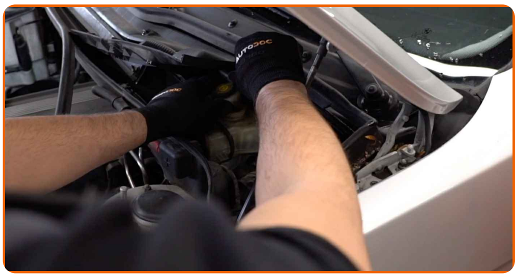
2 Remove the protective cover.



3 Remove the rubber strip.



4 Unscrew the brake fluid reservoir cap.



5 Secure the wheels with chocks.



6 Loosen the wheel mounting bolts. Use wheel impact socket #19.



7 Raise the rear of the car and secure on supports.

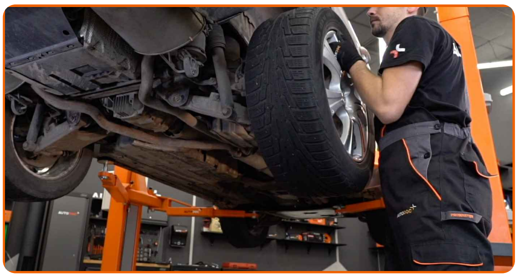
8 Unscrew the wheel bolts.



Replacement: brake pads – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). Tip:

- To avoid injury, hold up the wheel when unscrewing the bolts.

9 Remove the wheel.



10 Spread the brake pads. Use a crowbar.



11 Remove the dust boot caps of the brake caliper guide pins. Use a crowbar.



12 Unscrew the brake caliper fastening. Use HEX No.H7. Use a ratchet wrench.



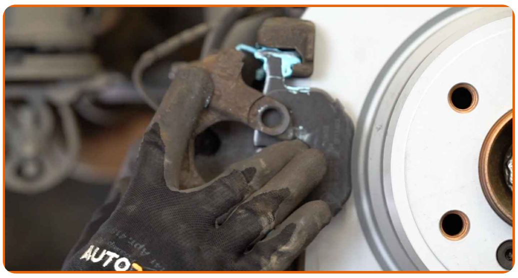
13

Detach the brake caliper retaining spring. Use a crowbar.



14

Remove the brake caliper.



Replacement: brake pads – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). AUTODOC experts recommend:

- Tie the caliper to the suspension or to the body with a wire without disconnecting from the brake hose to prevent depressurization of the brake system.
- Make sure that the brake caliper is not hanging on the brake hose.
- Don't press the brake pedal after the brake caliper has been removed. As a result, the piston can fall out from the brake cylinder, and brake fluid leakage and depressurization of the system may occur.

15

Remove the brake pads. Use a crowbar.



Replacement: brake pads – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). AUTODOC recommends:

- Measure the brake disc thickness. Upon reaching the wear limit the part must be replaced.

16 Remove the connector of the brake pad wear sensor. Use a crowbar.



Please note!

- Some cars are not equipped with the brake pad wear sensor.

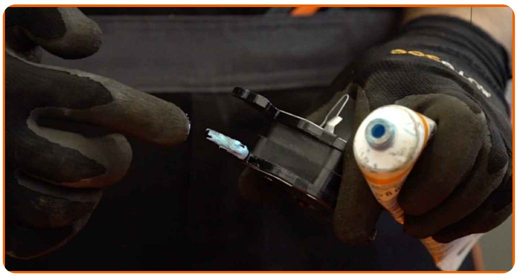
17 Clean the brake caliper bracket from dirt and dust. Use a wire brush. Use a brake cleaner.



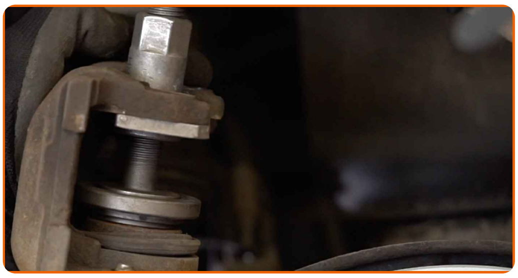
AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: brake pads – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

18 Press in the brake caliper piston. Use brake caliper wind back tool.



19 Treat the back side of the new brake pads. Use anti-squeal paste.



Replacement: brake pads – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). Professionals recommend:

- Make sure the disc surface is clean before installing the pads.

20 Install new brake pads.



Replacement: brake pads – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). Tip from AUTODOC:

- Make sure the pads are installed with linings facing the disc.

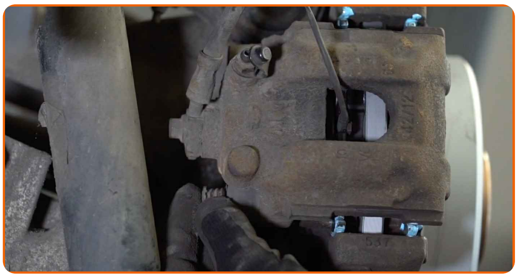
21 Connect the brake pad wear sensor plug.



22 Install the brake caliper and fix it. Use HEX No.H7. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 30 Nm torque.



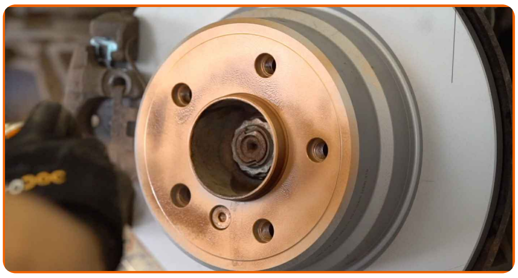
23 Install the dust boot caps of the brake caliper guide pins.



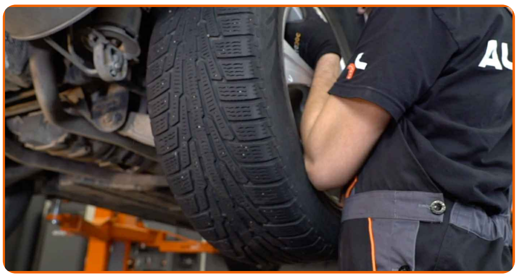
24 Install the brake caliper retaining spring.



25 Treat the surface where the brake disc contacts the wheel rim. Use copper grease.



26 Install the wheel.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Important! Hold the wheel while screwing in the fastening bolts. BMW 3 Coupe (E46)

27 Screw in the wheel bolts. Use wheel impact socket #19.



28 Lower the car and working in a cross order, tighten the wheel bolts. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 140 nm torque.



Replacement: brake pads – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). Tip from AUTODOC experts:

- Without starting the engine, press the brake pedal several times until you feel significant resistance.

29 Remove the jacks and chocks.



Replacement: brake pads – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). AUTODOC recommends:

- Check the brake fluid level in the expansion tank and refill if necessary.

30 Tighten the brake fluid reservoir cap.



31 Install the protective cover.



32 Install the rubber strip.



33 Close the hood.

Replacement: brake pads – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). Professionals recommend:

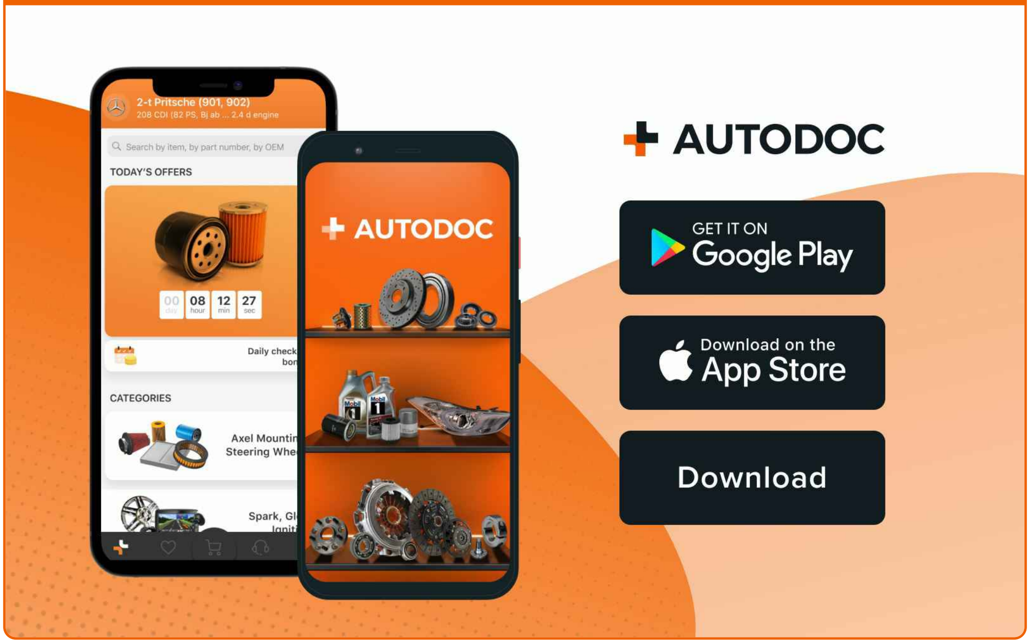
- Slow down smoothly for first 150-200 km after the brake pads replacement. Avoid unneccessary and sharp braking to a stop.

WELL DONE!

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